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SUBJECT: QATARI CROWN PRINCE'S MEETING WITH SE GRATION

(SBU) KEY POINTS:

-- Special Envoy for Sudan Scott Gration told Shaykh Tamim April 29 that President Obama is "very pleased" with Qatar's mediation efforts in Darfur.

-- SE Gration pledged to help Qatar in its efforts in any way that he can.

-- Tamim said maintaining unity and stopping the fighting in Sudan are very important and noted that the U.S. is one of Qatar's best allies in this regard.

-- SE Gration credited Qatar's efforts on Darfur with allowing him, as special envoy for all of Sudan, to focus on other issues, to include coming elections in the south.

End Key Points.

1. (SBU) Special Envoy for Sudan Scott Gration thanked Qatar's Heir Apparent, Shaykh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, April 29 for Qatar's contributions to Africa, calling them "phenomenal." He complimented Minister of State Ahmed Al-Mahmoud, who is taking lead on Sudan within the GOQ, as speaking "from the head and the heart about Sudan."

2. (SBU) SE Gration briefed Tamim on the meeting he had with President Obama before his visit to Qatar, telling him that the President is "very pleased with your efforts." SE Gration conveyed "his gratitude and that of the U.S." Qatar's efforts on Sudan, like those of the U.S., are designed to help this and future generations of Sudanese. Qatar, continued SE Gration, is helping mediate the dispute between Chad and Libya and prodding rebel groups to find consensus as they work toward power-sharing arrangements with the Government of Sudan (GOS).

3. (SBU) SE Gration lauded Qatar for listening and creating conditions conducive to progress without forcing issues too soon. He pledged his "commitment to supporting you anyway I can."

4. (SBU) Tamim responded that it is an honor for Qatar to help mediate in Sudan, noting that SE Gration had his own admirers, sometimes in unlikely places. For example, Sudan's President Bashir told Tamim recently that he was encouraged by what SE Gration is trying to accomplish.

5. (SBU) Turning to the larger issues, Tamim said maintaining the unity of Sudan and stopping the fighting there are very important. The United States in this effort is "one of our best and strongest allies." In order to succeed, we need "help, not obstacles" from everyone, underscored Tamim.

6. (SBU) SE Gration pointed out that he is the envoy for all of Sudan, not just Darfur. That said, what Qatar is doing in Darfur gives "me room to work on other issues. I have an election in nine months to prepare in the south of Sudan. What you are doing helps me move us forward on other important issues" such as this. He stressed the need to "get Darfur right and prevent further problems associated other regions of Sudan."

7. (SBU) SE Gration expressed his pleasure that Qatar and Libya are

working together as partners in mediating the border issues between Chad and Sudan. This is what is needed: bringing about a coalition of facilitators and mediators.

¶18. (SBU) Tamim said Qatar does not do what it does in search of accolades. Citing the successful mediation that Qatar hosted on Lebanon in June, Tamim said it "was not of our making. We were asked to mediate and we succeeded because we had good relations with all the players" and formed partnerships with others.

¶19. (SBU) The Heir Apparent acknowledged that Qatar would not always be successful. He noted that Qatar's efforts to broker an agreement, for example, between the government of Yemen and Huthi rebels failed "because not all the parties there were serious."

¶10. (SBU) SE Gration reiterated that the U.S. wants Qatar to be successful in Darfur. There is a sense of urgency in Sudan. Beyond the hard dates for elections, he stressed, there is a need to stabilize the situation before the rainy season "so that we can ensure food supplies for next year."

¶11. (SBU) Tamim closed by saying that Qatar will do its best. "We will not waste a minute and do not intend to fail."

¶12. (U) At SE Gration's request, this message is being transmitted without his clearance.

LEBARON